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Report of the International Criminal Court

Letter dated 8 July 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Botswana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am under instruction from my Government to forward to you the attached copy of the press release (containing Botswana's position on the Sirte African Union decision on the International Criminal Court) issued by the Government of Botswana regarding the decision of the African Union Summit held last week in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, in which the African Union was condemnatory of the International Criminal Court and decided not to cooperate in the matter concerning the indictment of President Omar Al Bashir of the Sudan (see annex).

The Government of Botswana requests that the attached press release be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) C. T. **Ntwaagae**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

09-40161 (E) 150709

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Annex to the letter dated 8 July 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Botswana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Press release

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Botswana has noted the decision of the African Union Summit recently held in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, to denounce the International Criminal Court and refuse to extradite President Omar Al Bashir of the Sudan.

The Government of Botswana does not agree with this decision and wishes to reaffirm its position that as a State party to the Rome Statute on the International Criminal Court, it has treaty obligations to fully cooperate with the Court in the arrest and transfer of the President of the Sudan to the International Criminal Court.

The International Criminal Court was established specifically to help end impunity for the perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community, by for instance prosecuting those suspected of committing genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

The people of Africa and the Sudan in particular have been victims of those crimes. Botswana strongly holds the view that the people of Africa, including the people of the Sudan, deserve to be protected from the perpetrators of such crimes. This is why a majority of African countries, numbering 30, are States party to the Rome Statute.

Gaborone, 4 July 2009